

YouTube Introduction
Encounter Recovery Ministries
August 2023

Welcome to this inaugural presentation of Encounter Recovery Ministries. My name is Rick Peterson, one of the founders of this ministry. We are a Christian ministry providing pastoral care to people suffering from issues of trauma, codependence, and addiction. In this brief introduction, I want to tell you something more of the who, what, and why of Encounter Recovery Ministries.

- I. First, it is very important for you to know that only the *power* of the gospel in its fullness can bring regeneration and renewal. So, while we work to apply the truth that is in Christ to issues of trauma, codependence, and addiction, this does not mean there is a different version of the gospel for those in recovery and another for those who are not. Too often, specialized ministries confuse content and application, and in their well-intended desire to make the gospel relevant, they actually diminish its power by watering down the content. This ministry therefore is committed to helping you make direct application of the truth that is in Christ while maintaining the full content of gospel truth in all its power.

- II. Second, central to the full content of the gospel is God's paramount purpose to conform you into the image of his Son (Romans 8:28-30). Therefore, we view ourselves "as ministers of a new covenant, not of the letter [of the Law] but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life" (II Corinthians 3:6). Jesus Christ is himself God's new covenant with his people, an unconditional covenant promising regeneration and renewal to all who believe in His Son (Isaiah 42:1-6; 49:6; Jeremiah 23:5-6; Luke 2:32; Acts 13:46-49).

III. We define recovery as ever-increasing conformity to Christ, which occurs by the work of the indwelling Spirit through the word of God (II Corinthians 3:6-18). Therefore, it is our conviction is that true recovery occurs as we learn to walk in step with the Spirit. “If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk in step with the Spirit” (Galatians 5:25). This is true step work, as opposed to that found in many Twelve-Step programs, for as good as the programs can be, they fall short of addressing the need for biblical regeneration *and* renewal. It is our commitment therefore to help you learn to walk in the Spirit and thereby make progress in Christlikeness, for it is *progress in Chris likeness which is the key to your recovery.*

Summary and conclusion

So if you have been frustrated with your struggle with trauma, codependence, and addiction, even to the point of despair, we literally have good news to offer you. This ministry is devoted to bringing you both the whole content of the gospel in its fullness and helping you to make application of its power in regeneration and renewal. We hope you will join us as we journey together into biblical recovery by learning to walk in step with the Spirit after the model and image of Jesus, and find the new life he died and rose again to secure for you. In conclusion, our prayer for you is the same as Paul prayed for his readers at Ephesus:

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give to you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the full knowledge of Him, so that you — the eyes of your heart having been enlightened — will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the surpassing greatness of His power toward us who believe according to the working of the might of His strength, which He worked in Christ, by raising Him from the dead and seating Him at His right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come” (Ephesians 1:17- 21). **Amen.**

© Encounter Recovery Ministries, 2023.